

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing a configuration data change, said method comprising:  
receiving a request from a user to implement a change in configuration data, said  
configuration data relating to an operation of a client;  
storing the received request in a memory area;  
requesting topology data from the memory area based on the configuration data, said  
topology data defining a relationship between the client and the configuration data;  
receiving the requested topology data from the memory area, said received topology data  
identifying the client;  
identifying a notification service associated with the identified client; and  
notifying the identified notification service of the change in the configuration data.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the client comprises one or more of the following: an  
application program, a server, a service, and an operating system component.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying comprises:  
generating a notification manifest identifying the client, said notification manifest  
defining the change in configuration data and specifying the client affected by the change;  
generating a notification as a function of the notification manifest; and  
sending the notification to the memory area for access by the notification service.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said request further specifies target configuration data, further comprising storing an instance of the target configuration data in the memory area and modifying the topology data to define a relationship between the target configuration data and the client.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if the user has authority to change configuration data.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said determining further comprises determining a set of operations that the user is authorized to perform on the configuration data.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the set of operations includes one or more of the following: changing configuration data of a back-end client, changing configuration data of a front-end client, changing configuration data of a monitoring client, or viewing configuration data of a second client.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising searching a second memory area to determine if the notification service notified the client of the change in configuration data.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a record in a second memory area,

said record indicating one or more of the following: a time that the request to change the configuration data is received, target configuration data, or an identification of the client.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more computer-readable media have computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

11. A method for notifying a client of a change in configuration data, said method comprising:

receiving a notification, said notification indicating a change in configuration data, said configuration data relating to an operation of the client;

obtaining a notification manifest from a memory area in response to the received notification, said notification manifest defining the change in the configuration data and specifying the client;

processing the obtained notification manifest to identify the client; and

sending the notification manifest to the identified client.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said obtaining a notification manifest comprises querying a configuration database for the notification manifest.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising storing a record in a second memory area in response to sending the notification manifest, said stored record indicating that the client has been notified of the change in the configuration data.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said sending comprises sending the notification manifest to the client unless a second memory area stores a record indicating one or more of the following: that the client is being notified of the change in the configuration data, that the client has been notified of the change in the configuration data, or that the change in the configuration data has been executed on the client.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein said sending the notification manifest comprises sending the notification manifest as an electronic mail message.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein one or more computer-readable media have computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 11.

17. A method for applying a configuration data change to a client, said method comprising:

receiving a notification manifest from a notification service, said received notification manifest defining a change in configuration data and specifying a client affected by the change in the configuration data;

processing the received notification manifest to identify the client;

determining a cache service associated with the identified client; and

notifying the determined cache service of the change in the configuration data to effect the change on the client.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said notifying comprises applying the change in the configuration data to a cache associated with the client.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising authenticating a source of the notification manifest.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising storing a record in a memory area in response to notifying the determined cache service, said record indicating that the client has been notified of the change or that the client has applied the change or both.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the record further includes a time stamp indicating a time associated with said notifying.

22. The method of claim 17, further comprising storing previous configuration data of the client in a memory area, said previous configuration data indicating a previous configuration state of the client.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising receiving a request to change the client from an existing configuration state to the previous configuration state, and wherein the change in the configuration data represents a change from the existing configuration data of the client to the previous configuration data.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein said change in the configuration data represents a change in an operational state of the client, said operational state indicating whether the client is executing a service.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein one or more computer-readable media have computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 17.

26. A system for managing a plurality of clients, said system comprising:  
a memory area adapted to store topology data, said topology data identifying a relationship between the plurality of clients;  
a notification adapted to indicate a change in configuration data, said configuration data relating to an operation of at least one affected client from the plurality of clients; and  
a notification service adapted to search the memory area in response to the notification to identify the affected client based on the topology data and to notify the affected client of the change in the configuration data.

27. The system of claim 26, further comprising an interface component adapted to receive a request to change the configuration data.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising computer-executable instructions to verify that said request to change the configuration data comprises authorization data authorizing

the change in the configuration data.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein the interface component comprises a user interface.

30. The system of claim 27, further comprising an application programming interface adapted to provide communication between the memory area and the interface component.

31. The system of claim 26, further comprising a cache manager adapted to receive a notification manifest from the notification service, said notification manifest defining the change in the configuration data and specifying the affected client, said cache manager further adapted to execute the change in the configuration data on the affected client.

32. The system of claim 26, further comprising a second memory area adapted to store data indicating a status of the change in the configuration data.

33. The system of claim 26, further comprising computer-executable instructions to identify the client affected by the change in the configuration data based on the topology data stored in the memory area, said computer-executable instructions further adapted to generate a notification manifest identifying the client affected by the change in the configuration data.

34. The system of claim 33, further comprising computer-executable instructions to generate the notification as a function of the notification manifest and to send the notification to

the memory area, wherein the memory area is adapted to store the notification, and wherein the notification service is adapted to access the memory area to receive said notification and to notify said affected client of the change in the configuration data in response to receiving said notification.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the notification service is adapted to notify said affected client of the change in the configuration data by sending the notification manifest to a cache manager associated with the affected client, said cache manger being adapted to receive the notification manifest and to process the notification manifest to identify the change in the configuration data, said cache manager further being adapted to execute the change in the configuration data on the affected client.

36. One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable components for performing a method to manage a plurality of clients, said computer-readable media comprising:

a configuration component to store topology data describing a relationship between the plurality of clients, said topology data further identifying a client affected by a change in configuration data, said configuration data relating to an operation of the client;

an interface component to receive a request to change the configuration data and to receive the topology data stored by the configuration component, said received topology data identifying the client affected by the change in the configuration data;

a notification component to notify the affected client of the change in the configuration data in response to the interface component receiving the request; and



a cache managing component to execute the change in the configuration data on the affected client in response to the notification component notifying the affected client of the change in the configuration data.

37. The computer-readable media of claim 36, wherein the interface component is adapted to identify the affected client based on the topology data stored by the configuration component and to generate a notification manifest in response to receiving the stored topology data, said notification manifest defining the change in the configuration data and specifying the affected client

38. The computer-readable media of claim 37, wherein the interface component is adapted to generate a notification as a function of the generated notification manifest and to send the generated notification to the configuration component, wherein the configuration component is adapted to store the notification, and wherein the notification component is adapted to access the configuration component to obtain the notification and to notify the cache managing component of the change in the configuration data in response to receiving said notification.

39. The computer-readable media of claim 38, wherein the notification component is adapted to notify the cache managing component of the change in the configuration data by sending the notification manifest to the cache managing component, wherein the cache managing component is adapted to receive the notification manifest and to process the notification manifest to identify the change in the configuration data to execute the change in the configuration data on

the affected client.

40. The computer-readable media of claim 36, wherein the notification component is adapted to store a record in a memory area in response to notifying the affected client of the change in the configuration data, said record indicating that the affected client has been notified of the change in the configuration data.